



EXCITER

March 2006

Issue No. 420

RARS Needs Exciter Editor

It comes as no surprise that things tend to change. The Editor position of our news letter is one of those things that has changed. If you will indulge me for a moment, I will make a bended knee appeal for someone to venture forward and work with me to get the Exciter back on track.

We have started the year with two great programs, attendance has been good and, we have the opportunity to have a great year at RARS. The hamfest committee has been busy planning for another great RARSFest. We need to get the word out to all local

hams and the Exciter is just one key element of that process.

Field Day is another. The more press and information we release, the more folks will participate, the more interest we will generate, and more potential hams can be reached. What I'm driving at is that the Exciter is our main outreach vehicle. It, along with our web site, are our main links to the outside and the Editor has a lot of responsibility for putting our best foot forward into the community.

It will take time and effort. We have depended upon

one person in the past for this task. I feel the time has come for a change. We need to think of the Exciter as a community project, with an Editor working with a committee of members to produce the monthly edition of the Exciter. It does not have to be a big committee, perhaps three or four regular contributors and the Editor. I can foresee columns on Public Service, HF events and operations, VHF and Above, and club functions.

Please give it some real thought. Let me know what you think. Thanks W8HYD

Special points of interest:

- *The RARS Nightly Net meets everyday on 146.64 at 8:00 PM*
- *There is the Weekly Edition of the RARS Tech & Traders Net each Saturday at 8:30, or right after the RARS Nightly Net.*
- *RARS meets for dinner at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Ave 6:30 on the 2nd. Tuesday each month.*

RARS Has a New Webmaster

With respect to the article above, another change has occurred. Jon, KG4ZVT has moved to Oklahoma and a new job. We wish him well in his new venture and we will miss him at RARS.

But, we have a new Webmaster, Steve Worley KB4HDQ. Steve has agreed to take the job until he can be formally appointed by the Board.

Steve is a RARS member and credits the web site with his becoming active in ham radio again. I want to welcome Steve as Webmaster and to assure him that we will do all we can to assist him in his maintenance of our web site.

Please direct any suggestions you may have about the web to Steve or a RARS Board member. We all wish Steve the best and

thank him for taking on the challenge so quickly.



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the monthly newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It is available in both printed and electronic form. The printed version is mailed to members just before each club meeting. The electronic form, in Adobe Acrobat PDF format, is e-mailed about a week earlier.

We solicit both articles and advertising. The deadline for submissions is first Friday of the month or Friday after the monthly meeting. Contact the Editor.

The views contained in the *Exciter* are those of the individual authors, and are not necessarily the views of the Editor, or the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society.

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, we incorporated a new RARS, and obtained 501(c)(3) Non-Profit tax status.

The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friend-ship through Amateur Radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining Amateur Radio licenses.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is eligible to apply for membership. Dues for regular licensed amateurs are \$18.00 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5.00 each per year. Dues for licensed amateurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12.00 per year. Dues for non-licensed Associate members are \$9.00 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer, or the RARS web site (www.rars.org).

EXCITER EDITOR:



OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:	Dick Bitner W8HYD 919-872-6802 ncsol@bellsouth.net
VICE-PRESIDENT	Selene Montgomery 919-577-1254 kg4rmt@earthlink.net
SECRETARY:	Dick Orander KD4ISC 919-469-5322 kd4isc@arrl.net
TREASURER:	Greg Seamster KE4PAX 919-859-0029 ke4pax@arrl.net

RARS Repeaters in Raleigh:
145.13 (82.5 PL)
146.64
224.64 (Temporarily off the air)
444.525 (82.5 PL)

WEB SITE www.rars.org



RARSFest 2006 - April 23

Volunteers are still needed.

Committee chairs are listed on page 7.

RALEIGH AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY MEETINGS

Date: *First Tuesday of each Month*

Location: *Forest Hills Baptist Church, at Dixie Trail and Clark Avenue, in Raleigh*

Time: *7:30pm. Folks start showing up a bit before 7 to chat, brag and eat donuts.*

VE Testing: The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August and November RARS meetings, at the RARSfest in April, the Cary Swapfest in July and the JARSfest in November, and following RARS license classes. Please bring a photo ID, the original and a copy of your current license, plus any CSCEs you have for credit. Please refer to www.rars.org for more information.

The Exciter goes to the printer the first Monday after the general meeting. Electronic mailing is the same week. Printing and mailing may vary.

TECHNICAL & TRADERS NET– Saturday evenings on 146.64 after the 8:00pm RARS net

RARS DUES

You can pay RARS dues online at the RARS website: www.rars.org, or send a check to
Greg Seamster KE4PAX
1405 Leanne Ct.
Raleigh, NC 27606

" IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO BUY EXPENSIVE BATTERIES SINCE THEY NEED TO BE ROTATED OUT OF STOCK ONCE PER YEAR" WA9SZL

WA9SZL Gives Club Food For Thought at February Meeting

At the February meeting, Johnnie, WA9SZL took the club into a fascinating description of survival preparedness. Working on a "Dollar Store" budget, and with common household items, he described the contents and make up of a 72 hour survival kit.

The program was very well received and the members present asked question and made additional points that focused upon the need to be prepared for any form of extended time without power or shelter.

He also showed the need to have a wide selection of food available that can be eaten without cooking. While the ideas and items may seem like common sense, he pointed out how many times they get forgotten or can not be used because something as simple as a can opener is misplaced.

He also pointed out that it is not necessary to buy the expensive brand of batteries since you should rotate the stock once a year. This is something we all

tend to forget.

Also, a small screen TV and am/fm radio combination is very valuable in situations where power is non existent. These can be operated on battery power for some time, just catch the news and for get the entertainment. Good idea, Oprah probably isn't going to provide useful information locally, in the event of storms or flooding.

Thanks for the tips and the good advice from the



RARS DOINGS

The next meeting will be the annual RARS birthday party and awards ceremony. Please come and celebrate the day with us. There will be recognition given to many in the club who have given time and effort to make RARS as good a club as possible. Mark the 1st Tuesday in March and join the fun.

Public Service is also a key element of RARS. There are several public service events coming up in the next few months. Please check with Dick, KD4ISC, about what is on the horizon.

RARSFest is also fast approaching. Chairman Hank, K4HM, and his crew leaders are looking for members help. Give Hank a call or check out the website for

signup information. This event is a focal point for the year. We all need to help in any way we can.

Don't forget the nightly net on the mighty .64, W4DW repeater. This is a great way to meet other members, share a daily thought or activity, and learn good net skills. Check in and earn the 64 on 64 award. It's fun and a great activity.

RARS Officers 2006

President: Dick Bitner, W8HYD, 919-872-6802, ncsol@bellsouth.net

Vice-President: Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, 919-577-1254, kg4rmt@arrl.net

Secretary: Dick Orander, KD4ISC, 919-469-5322, kd4isc@arrl.net

Treasurer: Greg Seamster, KE4PAX, 919-859-0029, ke4pax@arrl.net

WA9SZL Makes a Point!



Just a Thought

Ever wonder what ham radio was like back in the 50's and 60's? Have a question about cross band repeating or IRLP? What can I do to learn traffic handling and public service coordination? If you're like most hams, mildly intrigued about the other aspects of the hobby we don't participate in, just ask. As a part of your membership in RARS, your surrounded at the meetings by a very diverse group of

folks, each one of us has a slightly different view of our fine hobby.

As club President, I am always looking for ways to involve those of you who just attend the meetings. I guess as a consultant to business, I have always tried to involve my clients in the solution to their unique issues. The same goes for ham radio. Last year we tried to introduce a

way to get folks talking by going from table to table and having those seated at that table introduce themselves and say something about their interests and history in ham radio. Well, how about it, are you willing to risk a minute of your time to give a thumbnail of your interests? I think we'll all benefit if we do. 73
Dick W8HYD

Other Things of Interest

Just a few other things that should be of interest:

1. RARS News Hour every Sunday night right after the net on 146.64.
2. Charlotte Hamfest March 11-12
3. RARSFest April 23rd.
4. VE Testing Feb, May, August, and November at the RARS meetings.

Walk-in are accepted. In addition RARS provides testing at the RARSFest in April, the CARY Hamfest in July, and JARSFest in November.

5. VoIP Hurricane Net held Saturday at 7:00 PM on the Carolina 440 Linking System, and the NCVoIP Net is

held on Sunday at 7:00 pm. For more info; http://www.carolina440.net/repeaters_on_link.htm

6. Shortwave Listeners and Scanner Net meets Mondays at 9:00PM on the mighty .64.



Announcements

NEXT RARS MEETING:

Tuesday, March 7, 2006 7:30 pm

RARS Birthday Party - Annual Adwards Ceremony

NETS

VOIP Hurricane net held Saturday 7:00pm on 440 Carolina linking system. http://www.carolina440.net/repeaters_on_link.htm

NC VOIP for North Carolina also held on the 440 Carolina linking system on Sunday 7:00pm.

NEWS HOUR

For those interested, the most recent 4 editions of the RARS News Hour audio is now available on line at http://www.wa4bpj.com/Ham_Radio/RARS_News_Hour/RARS_News_Hour.htm Each week, I'll post the current news hour file and keep the most recent four. Each file is about 8 MB and the playing time is approximately 45minutes. 73, Mike, WA4BPJ

RARS DINNER

Come join us on the **2nd** Tuesday of each month. We are currently meeting at the Golden Corral, 6129 Glenwood Avenue. People start arriving around 6:30pm., and things usually wind down by 8pm or so. You can come whenever it's convenient for you. This gathering is open to anyone, RARS and non-RARS members, adults and children alike. Hope to see you there.

New Members

We would like to welcome the following new members to RARS. Thank you for considering us for your amateur radio club.

KI4NQU	Jim Burke
KD4JWF	Jose Guzman
N4TCP	Ken Salhoff
WD4FBG	John Snellen
KF4RKD	Chuck Zlamal
KS4VA	Glenn Robb

HAMFEST CALENDAR

March 11-12	Charlotte, NC
April 2	Kinston, NC
April 15	Morganton, NC
April 23	RALEIGH, NC
May 13*	Eden, NC
May 20	Williamston, NC
May 19-21	Dayton, OH
May 20	Greenville, NC
May 27*	Durham, NC
June 10*	Winston-Salem
June 24-25	FIELD DAY
July 1	Salisbury, NC
July 15	Cary, NC

Courtesy of the SERA Repeater Journal
*Date is not confirmed



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RARSFest 2006
April 23, 2006

Pre-registration can be done on the RARS web site at the following URL:
<http://www.rars.org/hamfest/>.

Flyers will be mailed in late February, which will also include pre-registration information. Remember to place your ticket orders to get registered for the pre-registration prize as well as other prizes. You can also register for tables and power in advance.

Your help is needed to advertise RARSFest. If you need a flyer to post on a bulletin board, just let someone on the committee know.

Also, mark your calendar for the vendor dinner on Saturday, April 22nd. Please contact Mary Jo Littlewood and offer to bring a dish.



Birthdays

Paul	N4YGU	3/2
Bob	N4VQN	3/5
Walt	K4ZVK	3/5
Robert	KI4MMT	3/5
Sharon	KD4ACK	3/6
Noble	N4UOQ	3/6
Bruce	WA9NEW	3/8
Jay	NT4D	3/8
James	KC9VJ	3/8
Bob	KC4CPD	3/10
Tom	N4TAB	3/10
Jim	WA5APR	3/10
Bob	WA4ZZN	3/12
David	KF4VXJ	3/12
Larry	K4LXV	3/17
Eddie	KE4DST	3/18
Bill	K4WGE	3/20
Chuk	KB4MDZ	3/21
Carl	W4HJZ	3/23
Greg	KE4PAX	3/23
Betty	KA2JFG	3/26
BJ	KD4ZVS	3/26
Peg	KB1HVA	3/28
James	KG4ISM	3/30

RARSFest 2006 Committee Chairs

Chairman	Hank Montgomery	K4HM
Co-Chair	Larry Wiandt	N4LEW
Facilities & Pre-Hamfest	Chuck Littlewood	K4HF
Pre-Registration & Flea Market	Jeff Wittich	AC4ZO
Vendor & Dealers	Chuck Littlewood	K4HF
Treasurer	Greg Seamster	KE4PAX
Program	Gary Pearce	KN4AQ
Prizes	Hank Montgomery	K4HM
Meetings & Forums	Chuck Littlewood	K4HF
Setup	Bernard Blackmon	W4BRB
Stage	Gary Pearce	KN4AQ
Admissions	Charles Swindell	WB4DCM
Comm Center	Bruce Buck	KC4UQN
Security	Ron Ford	W4RJF
Social	Mary Jo Littlewood	K4MJL
Publicity	Gary Pearce	KN4AQ
Teardown	Dave Thomas	K4SAN
RARS Table	Larry Holt	KG4FIQ
Contests	Dick Bitner	W8HYD

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Thanks For Your Patience

Well here we have it, a greatly reduced Exciter for this month. I hope that someone will come forward and take up the reins as Editor. It doesn't take much to see that I'm not talented along these lines.

There is a backlog of stories and features for the next edition. Your club officers and board members are ready to help get you started.

I thank you for your patience with this edition. Let's move forward together.